

2 August 2012

Australian Energy Market Commission
PO Box A2449
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

**Submission to Rule Change Proposal ERC0147
National Electricity Amendment (Connecting embedded generators) Rule 2012**

Dear AEMC

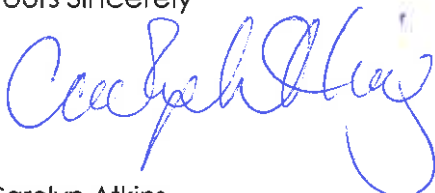
The Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) is the peak body of the social and community sector in Victoria. VCOSS members reflect the diversity of the sector and include large charities, peak organisations, small community services, advocacy groups, and individuals interested in social policy. In addition to supporting the sector, VCOSS represents the interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged Victorians in policy debates and advocates for the development of a sustainable, fair and equitable society.

VCOSS supports the rule change proposed by ClimateWorks Australia, Seed Advisory, and the Property Council of Australia regarding the connection of embedded generators to electricity distribution networks. A streamlined connection regime based on a principle of facilitating access where practicable, such as is proposed, aligns with the National Electricity Objective and would likely both help slow growth in electricity prices over the medium term (by mitigating the cost impact of peak demand) and hasten the transition to a lower carbon economy.

Additionally, the proposed rule change would equally support community renewable energy (CRE) projects. CRE projects can provide a concrete way for lower income households, especially tenants, to benefit directly from renewable energy.

VCOSS endorses the Total Environment Centre's submission on this rule change proposal

Yours Sincerely



Carolyn Atkins
Acting Chief Executive Officer